

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 113549
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 ISO-00
SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 /068 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:JMROBERTS:PMA

APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:AJWHITE

EA/K:FMISCH

EUR/SOV:RPERITO

NTSB:WHALNON

L/EB:FWILLIS

-----018571 041537Z /72

P R 041521Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0235

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 113549

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, US, JA, KS, PEPR, UR

SUBJECT: RECOVERY OF THE DOWND KAL AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 106562; (B) SEOUL 3642; (C)

MOSCOW 9410; (D) SEOUL 3696

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT KAL IS NOW
FOCUSING ON THE DISPOSITION OF THEIR AIRCRAFT (REF D). IN
SPITE OF POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY BE FULLY COMPENSATED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 113549

FOR ITS LOSS BY THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY, WE PRESUME
THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE OVERLY KEEN WITH THE
PROSPECT, AS THE TEMPERATURE CREEPS UP, OF AN INTACT
LARGE AIRCRAFT GRADUALLY SINKING INTO THE SHALLOWS OF
THE FROZEN LAKE ON WHICH IT LANDED. WE WOULD ALSO
PRESUME THAT THE INSURANCE COMPANY, WHICH COULD POSSIBLY
BE A NON-KOREAN FIRM, WOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO CUT ITS

LOSS BY SALVAGING THE AIRCRAFT IN WHOLE OR IN PART. CONSEQUENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO ANTICIPATE SOME KIND OF RECOVERY EFFORT. THEREFORE, ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE DAMAGE THE AIRCRAFT SUSTAINED AND KAL'S AIRCRAFT RECOVERY DELIBERATIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO BOEING AND OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT (SEE PARA 3, REF A).

2. IN REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (REF B), NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT NOR THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB) BELIEVES THAT ARTICLE 26 OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ("CHICAGO CONVENTION") REQUIRES THE SOVIETS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY WHICH FOLLOWS THE GUIDELINES CONTAINED IN ANNEX 13 TO THE CONVENTION (ANNEX 13 PERTAINS TO ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS). IN ADDITION, THE NTSB REPORTS THAT SINCE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH LANDING IS NOT IN DISPUTE, AN "ACCIDENT" INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ARTICLE 26 IS NOT ENVISIONED.

3. HOWEVER, SINCE THE SOVIETS ARE APPARENTLY CONDUCTING SOME KIND OF INQUIRY, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW IF IT IS BEING HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDED PRACTICES" OF ANNEX 13. AS THE EMBASSY WILL RECOGNIZE, SUCH AN INQUIRY WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF THE GOK TO OBTAIN DATA WHICH REF D SUGGESTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 113549

THEY MAY REQUEST FROM THE SOVIETS. ON THE CHANCE THAT THE INQUIRY DOES FOLLOW ANNEX 13, THE NTSB WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE EITHER AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTRY OF REGISTRY (KOREA) OR IN THEIR OWN RIGHT AS THE COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE NTSB HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT SHOULD THE SOVIETS NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO INTERPRET THE B-707 VOICE AND FLIGHT RECORDERS, THE NTSB WILL DO SO FOR THEM. THIS OFFER IS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE SOVIET INQUIRY FOLLOWS ANNEX 13.

4. THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY MOSCOW'S OBSERVATIONS (REF C) ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE SOVIETS ALLOWING A SURVEY TEAM TO EXAMINE THE AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH WE AGREE THAT THE INSPECTION AND PRESUMABLY ULTIMATE RE-COVERY SHOULD BE LEFT IN COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, GIVEN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIETS ATTITUDE, THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO RECEIVE AN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE. IF AN APPEAL WERE RECEIVED, ONE TACK UNDER CONTEMPLATION IN THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE TO ASK THE SOVIETS AT NO CHARGE TO DISMEMBER THE AIRCRAFT, CRATE IT AND ALLOW A THIRD COUNTRY SHIP TO RETRIEVE THE CRATES AT MURMASK (MUCH IN

THE SAME MANNER AS THE SOVIETS RETRIEVED THEIR MIG 25
FROM JAPAN).

5. REQUEST EMBASSY MOSCOW INFORM SOVIET AUTHORITIES OF
NTSB OFFER OF ASSISTANCE PARA 3. CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT DETENTION, NEGOTIATIONS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE113549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMROBERTS:PMA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-1086
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780592/aaaadawc.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 54da98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 106562, 78 SEOUL 3642
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2791050
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECOVERY OF THE DOWNED KAL AIRCRAFT
TAGS: EAIR, PEPR, US, JA, KS, UR
To: SEOUL MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54da98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014